

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02770 271602Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OES-03 FEA-01 ERDA-05

EB-07 INT-05 /111 W

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R 271500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7177

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2770

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ALI MURTOPO IN INDIA: PRESIDENTIAL VISITS,

POTENTIAL COOPERATION

REF: JAKARTA 1574

SUMMARY: GENERAL MURTOPO'S VISIT RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY IN THE INDIAN PRESS EVEN THOUGH HE ARRIVED WITH A DOZEN DZAIDES. MOREOVER, THE INDONESIANS HERE ARE BEING VERY CAUTIOUS AND EVEN CONTRADICTORY IN COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS AND THE VISITS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD BE EXPLORING A PROGRAM OF LIMITED COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. END SUMMARY.

1. A NEW OFFICER IN THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY (OF COUNSELOR  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 02770 271602Z

RANK) TOLD US SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT MURTOPO DISCUSSED

POSSIBLE FUTURE EXCHANGES OF INDIAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR INDONESIA OIL, AND ALSO AGREED THAT INDONESIA PRESIDENT SUHARTO WOULD VISIT INDIA IN APRIL, HE EXPLAINED THE ABSENCE OF PRESS COVERAGE OF THE TRIP BY SAYING THIS WAS BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

2. THE INDONESIA EMBASSY MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US THAT SUHARTO WOULD NOT VISIT INDIA THIS YEAR UNDER ANY FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES BUT THAT MURTOPO HAD INVITED INDIAN PRESIDENT FAKRUDDIN ALI AHMED TO VISIT INDONESIA IN APRIL OR MAY AND THAT THIS INVITATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. THE INDIANS HAD WANTED SUHARTO TO COME TO INDIA (ARGUING THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD ALREADY VISITED JAKARTA) BUT THE INDONESIAS HELD OUT FOR A FIRST VISIT TO INDONESIA BY SUHARTO'S PROTOCOL COUNTERPART, THE INDIAN PRESIDENT. THE MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR CONFIRMED TO US INDEPENDENTLY THAT THE INDONESIAS HAVE BEEN ADAMANT ABOUT A PRIOR AHMED VISIT BECAUSE SUHARTO WAS SENIOR IN TENURE TO THE INDIAN PRESIDENT.

3. THE INDONESIA MINISTER ALSO DENIED PLANS FOR NUCLEAR/PETROLEUM COOPERATION, INSISTING THAT JOINT VENTURES IN LIGHT INDUSTRY SUCH AS PAPER PLANTS AND TEXTILES WERE ALL THAT WAS DISCUSSED DESPITE MURPOPO'S VISIT TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY FACILITIES IN BOMBAY. THE MINISTER COMMENTED THAT INDIAN-INDONESIA RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN "VERY THIN" IN THE PAST, ARE LIKELY TO ACQUIRE SOMEWHAT MORE DIMENSION IN THE FUTURE AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE, BUT THAT THEY WILL STILL BE RELATIVELY LIGHT.

4. IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY SOME OF THESE CONTRADICTIONS AN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON THE MEA INDONESIA DESK OFFICER FEBRUARY 27 FOR HIS COMMENTS. KEEPING TO GENERALITIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, THE INDIAN OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT AS NONPOLITICAL AND IMPORTANT ONLY IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, MURTOPO AND HIS PARTY WERE PUT IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES DEALING WITH SUBJECTS WHICH INTERESTED THEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02770 271602Z

THE MEA OFFICIAL SAID MURTOPO DID NOT CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID MURTOPO MIGHT RETURN HERE IN THE NEXT MONTHS IN CONNECTION WITH SOME SEMINAR ON THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND THAT NO VISITS OTHER THAN THAT OF THE INDOENESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (FOR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS) WERE AS YET SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR.

5. ON A POSSIBLE TRANSACTION INVOLVING OIL AND NUCLEAR

TECHNOLOGY (THE QUESTION WAS NOT PUT DIRECTLY) THE MEA OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY DISCUSSION OF INDONESIAN OIL DURING THE MURTOPO VISIT. HE REITERATED THAT IT WAS THE INDONESIAN SIDE WHICH WAS PURSUING QUESTIONS OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, NOT THE INDIANS. IN CONTEXT OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE TRIP TO BOMBAY, THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SCIENTISTS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS HERE IN RECENT DAYS SUGGESTING THAT INDIA IS GROWING WARMER TO THE IDEA OF COOPERATING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. MRS. GANDHI, SPEAKING IN HER CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, TOLD PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 26 THAT INDIA WAS WILLING TO COLLABORATE WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. AN MEA DISARMAMENT EXPERT TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 25 THAT SOME INTEREST IN INDIA'S PNE HAD BEEN SHOWN BY THE YUGOSLAV VICE PREMIER AND OTHER OFFICIAL VISITORS HERE IN RECENT WEEKS. THERE COULD BE SOMETHING IN THE OFFING BETWEEN DELHI AND JAKARTA IN THIS REGARD, EITHER AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY OR A UNILATERAL OFFER OF TRAINING FACILITIES. WE WILL TRY TO PROBE FOR MORE BUT WOULD

WELCOME WHATEVER INFORMATION EMBASSY JAKARTA IS ABLE TO TURN UP ON THAT SIDE.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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